

By: Anderson of McLennan

H.R. No. 273

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The law firm of Naman, Howell, Smith and Lee is
2 celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2017, and this milestone is
3 indeed deserving of special recognition; and

4 WHEREAS, One of the oldest law practices in Texas, the firm
5 was founded in 1917 in Waco, and it has since expanded to encompass
6 offices in Austin, Fort Worth, and San Antonio, allowing it to
7 engage in a broad statewide practice extending all the way from the
8 Red River to the Rio Grande Valley; and

9 WHEREAS, Today, Naman, Howell, Smith and Lee represents a
10 wide variety of clients in many areas of law, including litigation,
11 business, estate planning, telecommunications, tax, real estate,
12 oil and gas, banking, tax exempt financing, intellectual property,
13 practice before state agencies, labor and employment, and
14 agriculture, as well as the representation of cities and other
15 local governmental entities; and

16 WHEREAS, Many attorneys from this storied firm have been
17 active in the State Bar of Texas and other professional
18 associations; Cullen Smith and Jim Bowmer have served as presidents
19 of the state bar, Wilford Naman was the chair of the state bar's
20 board of directors, and Mr. Smith and Roy Barrett were each former
21 presidents of the Texas Young Lawyers Association; Hilton H. Howell
22 and Hayes Fuller served as presidents of the Texas Association of
23 Defense Counsel, and a number of the firm's attorneys have held
24 membership on the boards of the state bar and the TYLA; moreover,

1 many have held the office of president of their local bar
2 associations; and

3 WHEREAS, Several members of the firm have established
4 distinguished records in public service; before joining Naman,
5 Howell, Smith and Lee, George Cowden served as a Texas state
6 representative, chair of the State Board of Insurance, and chair of
7 the Public Utility Commission; Jerry "Nub" Donaldson also served in
8 the Texas House of Representatives, and David Sibley served in the
9 Texas Senate; after retiring from the firm, George Chase became an
10 associate justice of the 10th Court of Appeals in Waco; and

11 WHEREAS, Seven members of Naman, Howell, Smith and Lee have
12 been elected to fellowship in the American College of Trial
13 Lawyers, an invitation-only honor for exceptional attorneys who
14 have demonstrated the very highest standards of trial advocacy,
15 ethical conduct, integrity, professionalism, and collegiality; the
16 firm's lawyers who have received this prestigious recognition are
17 Wilford Naman, Jim Bowmer, Bob Burlison, Louis Muldrow, Roy
18 Barrett, Larry Brady, and Larry Warren; and

19 WHEREAS, The 44th largest law practice in Texas, Naman,
20 Howell, Smith and Lee was selected in 2015 by American Lawyer Media
21 and Martindale-Hubbell as one of the nation's Top Ranked Law Firms,
22 a distinction achieved by only about one percent of the nearly
23 254,000 firms evaluated; and

24 WHEREAS, The practice's current president, Hayes Fuller,
25 follows in the footsteps of past presidents Cullen Smith, J. Rodney
26 Lee, Albert Witcher, Wesley Filer, and Roy Barrett; Mr. Barrett
27 serves as chairman of the board and is ably assisted by a

1 member-elected executive committee composed of Keith Gamel and
2 Clark Aspy from the Austin office, Charles Mitchell from Fort
3 Worth, Ben Selman and Jordan Mayfield from Waco, and Larry Warren
4 from San Antonio; and

5 WHEREAS, The lawyers in the firm's Austin office include
6 Clark Aspy, Cliff Blount, Clifton Bowling, Whitney Broadwater,
7 George Cowden, Dennis Donley, Bradley Douglas, Michael Duncan,
8 Keith Gamel, James Howard, Rachel Heckelman, Curt Kurhajec, Jay
9 Lea, David LeBas, Steve Morris, Stephanie Potter, Chris Sayers,
10 J. Baird Smith, and Frank Tuttle; and

11 WHEREAS, Representing the firm in Fort Worth are Jennifer
12 Andrews, Lindsay Daniel, Grant Liser, Sandra Liser, Charles
13 Mitchell, Shane O'Dell, Ray Palmer, and Jackie Robinson; and

14 WHEREAS, The legal staff in the San Antonio office includes
15 Georgina Buckley, Mark Cooper, J. Mark Craun, Erik Krudop,
16 J. K. Leonard, Averie Maldonado, Mike Myers, Steve Navarro, David
17 Ortega, James Parker, Karl T. Rivas, Andrew Stamper, and Larry
18 Warren; and

19 WHEREAS, The practice's original office in Waco is
20 represented by Jeff Armstrong, Roy Barrett, Charles Barrow, Nick
21 Bray, Jerry Campbell, Cara Chase, Andrew Clark, Wesley Filer, Hayes
22 Fuller, Kerry Haliburton, John Hawkins, Trenton Hood, Paul Hubbard,
23 Kyle Knas, Robert Little, Jordan Mayfield, Nancy Morrison, Kristen
24 Mynar, John Palmer, Lindsey Philpott, Neal Pirkle, Dan Pleitz, Andy
25 Powell, Jeanine Rispoli, Joe Rivera, Stephanie Schwab, Ben Selman,
26 Laura Swann, Cullen Smith, Tod Swann, Vicky Trompler, and Albert
27 Witcher; and

1 WHEREAS, Since its inception, Naman, Howell, Smith and Lee
2 has rendered vital service to its clients throughout the Lone Star
3 State, and its current partners and associates may indeed take
4 pride in the legacy of legal excellence that has been built by the
5 firm over the course of the past century; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
7 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby congratulate Naman,
8 Howell, Smith and Lee on its centennial and extend to all those
9 associated with the firm sincere best wishes for continued success;
10 and, be it further

11 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
12 prepared for the firm as an expression of high regard by the Texas
13 House of Representatives.